

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02

ACDA-07 ARA-06 EUR-12 AID-05 FDRE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /113 W

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O 021621Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4375

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 311

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMA KO 2670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, US, ML

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO SUMMIT-

CHARGE CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: (A) STATE 181500, (B) STATE 188804, (C) BAMA KO 2655,
(D) STATE 186305

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO RECEIVED
CHARGE MORNING OF AUGUST 2, EXPLAINING THAT EVEN THOUGH
HE WAS STILL ON VACATION, HE KNEW THAT CHARGE HAD
REQUESTED THE CALL WITH A DIPLOMATIC NOTE, A VISIT TO
THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND SEVERAL PHONE CALLS. HE
LAUGHED AND SAID HE WAS GLAD TO SEE ME, DESPITE HIS
"OFF DUTY" STATUS.

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2. CHARGE SAID THAT PUERTO RICO AND KOREA WERE VITAL ISSUES FOR THE US. WE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS JUSTIFIED SINCE US HAD ALREADY ACCORDED RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. THEY HAD CHOSEN COMMONWEALTH STATUS, WHICH WAS STILL EVOLVING. CHARGE ADDED THAT US HOPED COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE ENJOYED CORDIAL RELATIONS, SUCH AS MALI, WOULD UNDERSTAND THE FORCE OF SENTIMENT WITH WHICH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE VIEWED THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION.

3. CISSOKHO REPLIED THAT MALI'S POSITION WAS ONE OF PRINCIPLE: MALI WOULD RESPECT THE WISHES OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. IN A MORE INFORMAL VEIN, CISSOKHO SAID THAT THEY WOULD TRY TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO AT COLOMBO SUMMIT AND UN. CHARGE SAID THAT THAT WAS HOW HE HAD UNDERSTOOD MALIAN POSITION ON PUERTO RICO (REF D). ON JULY 17, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR KANTE AT UN HAD TOLD US THAT BECAUSE OF US POSITION IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON ENTEBBE AFFAIR, MALI WOULD REVERSE ITS PRESENT POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND ONCE AGAIN OPPOSE US. CHARGE, LOOKING PUZZLED, ASKED HOW HE COULD EXPLAIN THIS TO WASHINGTON. CISSOKHO LOOKED CONCERNED AND SAID THAT NO SUCH INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO KANTE; HE WOULD RECEIVE PROPER INSTRUCTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CHARGE THEN PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE AS INSTRUCTED REF A WITH THE LAST CLAUSE OF LAST SENTENCE DELETED AS INSTRUCTED REF B. CHARGE ALSO PRESENTED TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S DECLARATION AT PUERTO RICO ECONOMIC SUMMIT, EXPLAINING THAT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT INDICATED VERY HIGH LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE WE ACCORDED PUERTO RICO. (SEE REF C FOR ACCOUNT OF TALKS WITH OTHER MALIAN DELEGATES TO COLOMBO.)

4. CHARGE THEN SAID THAT KOREAN PROBLEM WAS STILL BEFORE US. THE US REGARDED BOTH PUERTO RICO AND KOREA AS OF SUCH SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE THAT THEY

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AFFECTED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MALI. CISSOKHO NODDED IN AGREEMENT. CHARGE REVIEWED ESSENTIALS OF SECRETARY'S SEATTLE SPEECH AND OUTLINED USG POSITION ON IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE; REQUIREMENT THAT NORTH KOREA'S ALLIES IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA BEFORE WE DID THE SAME WITH THE NORTH; ADMISSION OF BOTH TO UN; AND US WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE

A NEW BASE FOR THE ARMISTICE OR ITS REPLACEMENT BY MORE DURABLE ARRANGEMENTS. CHARGE LEFT TWO PAPERS IN FRENCH CULLED FROM WIRELESS FILE. (WE RECEIVED FRENCH TRANSLATION OF SECRETARY'S SEATTLE SPEECH TOO LATE TO PREPARE AND PRESENT TO MINISTER.)

5. CISSOKHO SIAD THAT KOREA WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN PUERTO RICO. THERE WERE CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH HAD TO BE MET REGARDING THE UN RESOLUTION WHICH HAD CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS. CHARGE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO RESOLUTIONS AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE BOTH OF THEM. NORTH KOREA, SAID CHARGE, HAD MILITARY TREATIES WITH BOTH THE USSR AND CHINA, TWO COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT ENJOYED A COMMON FRONTIER. SOVIET AND CHINESE TROOPS WERE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE. SOUTH KOREA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD A SIMILAR TREATY WITH THE US, BUT WE WERE FAR AWAY. IT WAS BETTER, THEREFORE, SAID CHARGE, THAT US TROOPS REMAIN IN KOREA AS A DETERRENT FORCE UNTIL THERE WAS A FIRMER BASIS FOR PEACE THERE. WE HAD WITHDRAWN US TROOPS ONCE BEFORE, SAID CHARGE, IN LATE 1940'S AND THE RESULT HAD BEEN WAR. WE THOUGHT FIRST STEP WAS TO ENCOURAGE NORTH KOREA TO RESUME DIALOGUE WITH THE SOUTH.

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6. CHARGE SAID THAT IT APPEARED THAT NORTH KOREA WAS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AND, READING FROM RECENT ARTICLE IN (OFFICIAL MALIAN DAILY) L'ESSOR PLACE BY NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY HERE, WITH LARGE PICTURE OF KIM IL-SUNG WHICH CISSOKHO COULD NOT MISS, QUOTED KIM AS SAYING THEY COULD NOT SIT DOWN AT THE SAME TABLE WITH THE QTE CORRUPT AND VICIOUS, ETC., ETC., SOUTH KOREAN CLIQUE OF VIOLATORS OF TRUE PATRIOTS, ETC., ETC. END QTE. IT WOULD BE ENORMOUSLY HELPFUL, SAID CHARGE, IF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES SUCH AS MALI COULD PERSUADE NORTH KOREA TO RESUME THE BROKEN DIALOGUE. CIS-SOKHO LISTENED INTENTLY.

7. CISSOKHO SAID MALI SUPPORTED A DIALOGUE
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BECAUSE WITHOUT IT THERE WOULD NEVER BE REUNIFICATION.

8. CISSOKHO RAISED QUESTION OF US DEVELOPMENT AID TO MALI, AS HE ALWAYS DOES, AND SAID THAT HE HOPED WE COULD PUT CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES ASIDE AND CONCENTRATE ON THE MORE IMPORTANT WORK OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CHARGE WARMLY AGREED AND SAID THAT US AID HAD BEEN RESUMED DURING THE 1972-74 DROUGHT, THAT OUR AID HAD NOW BECOME MEDIUM-TERM IN NATURE, AND THAT WITH THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN DAKAR, THE US WOULD BE LOOKING AT LONGER-TERM PROJECTS. US AID TO THE SAHEL WOULD CERTAINLY INCREASE. CISSOKHO SAID THAT HE AND ALL MALIANS DEEPLY APPRECIATED US AID RECEIVED DURING THE DROUGHT, AND AFTER. HE HOPED THAT AMERICAN EXPERTISE COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON MALI'S PROBLEMS. IT WAS PAINFUL FOR HIM TO HAVE TO APPROACH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE UP THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND BUDGET DEFICITS EACH YEAR. IF ONLY MALI'S QTE RICHES END QTE, HE SAID, COULD BE TAPPED AND EXPLOITED. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS OIL IN MALI, AS THERE WAS IN NIAMEY AND ALGERIA, AND HE HOPED THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD RETURN (TEXACO SUSPENDED OPERATIONS IN 1975).

CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT UTAH INTERNATIONAL REPS HAD BEEN IN BAMAKO LAST WEEK TO CLARIFY CONDITIONS CONCERNING MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION. CISSOKHO WISHED UTAH INTERNATIONAL LUCK AND SAID ANY AMERICAN FIRM WOULD BE WELCOME IN MALI, FOR WITHOUT THE INCOME OF EXPORT INDUSTRIES, HIS COUNTRY WOULD CONTINUE TO FACE SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

9. CHARGE SAID THERE WAS GROWING BASE OF SUPPORT IN US FOR SAHELIAN DEVELOPMENT. CISSOKHO SAID IN A PLEASANT WAY THAT US SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL STATES SUCH AS SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST. CHARGE SAID WE WERE INTERESTED IN MALI: THERE WERE 35 AMERICANS WORKING AT OUR EMBASSY IN BAMAKO. ONLY TWO CONCERNED THEMSELVES WITH POLITICAL AFFAIRS; OVER HALF WORKED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CISSOKHO SAID IN THAT
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CASE HE HOPED TO SEE AN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BAMAKO OF AT LEAST 200-250 AMERICANS.

10. COMMENT: CISSOKHO WAS ALONE AND MORE RELAXED THAN HE HAD BEEN ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. REGARDING PUERTO RICO, HIS SUBORDINATES NOW KNOW US POSITION BY HEART. WHEN CISSOKHO REACHES SAME LEVEL OF ENLIGHTENMENT, AND IF MALI DOES NOT VOTE AGAINST US IN UN, WE CAN THEN PROBABLY DROP THE ISSUE. ON KOREA, MALI IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO NORTH KOREAN POSITION, BUT OUR DEMARCHES MAY HAVE SOME EFFECT. SHOULD MALI, HOWEVER, ABSTAIN OR NOT ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, WE SHOULD SEEK PRETEXT --WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO--FOR A POLITICAL GESTURE, E.G., REOPENING OF MODEST FMS PROGRAM, MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO CISSOKHO, ETC. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, DESPITE ASSURANCES, MALI VOTES AGAINST US ON PUERTO RICO, THIS EMBASSY WILL REQUEST THE APPROPRIATE THUNDERBOLTS.
DAWKINS

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